

That surgery of strabismus is not an exact science is brought out by Berke in his presentation. He states that "Squint surgery must be based largely on empiricism and trial and error until we know more about the pathologic changes of nonaccommodative, nonparalytic strabismus."

The last 59 pages are devoted to a round table discussion by the panel based on questions from the audience. This is one of the most important parts of the book and brings out the fact that there is still considerable difference of opinion among the authorities.

The book cannot be recommended as a textbook for the beginner in ophthalmology because of the conflicting and contradictory opinions expressed. These would only serve to confuse the student of this somewhat bewildering subject. The more experienced ophthalmologist can resolve many of these differences of opinion.

The format is outstanding with good typography and excellent paper and binding. Except for a few reproductions of photographs, the illustrations, including line drawings, surgical illustrations and reproduction of photographs, are all excellent. The 14-page index is adequate.

FREDERICK C. CORDES, M.D.

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PRACTICAL ANESTHESIOLOGY—Joseph F. Artusio, Jr., M.D., Professor of Anesthesiology in Surgery and Professor of Anesthesiology in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, N. Y.; Anesthesiologist-in-Chief, the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, New York, N. Y.; and Valentino D. B. Mazzia, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anesthesia, New York University School of Medicine and Postgraduate Medical School, New York, N. Y. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1962. 318 pages, \$7.75.

The authors have prefaced the text with a statement of purpose. The book is designed for medical students and general practitioners as a handbook of current practices in anesthesiology and to be of value to the nurse anesthetist.

The reviewer has tried to assess the degree of success which has been achieved by the authors toward reaching this goal.

The experienced anesthetist at first will be inclined to regret the author's failure to consider many of the features which he believes should be included in any volume whose title includes the word "practical." In many instances he will feel relieved to find many, of what appeared to be, missing features somewhat hidden in subsequent chapters.

The forty-two chapters containing 300 pages are neatly divided into five parts—for the most part termed "Considerations." They include Basic, Preanesthesia, Anesthesia, Techniques of Administration and Special Considerations.

The chapters on Anatomical and Physiological Considerations, which precede any mention of Anesthetics provide the medical student with the same dynamic introduction to anesthesia which is familiar to him in modern, clinically oriented, medical basic science training. An opportunity to extend this concept earlier in the text to emphasize the need for and the means of insuring adequate ventilation in all patients regardless of the effects of the anesthetic agent, muscle relaxant or disease process has been missed. For example an early brief, but clear, explanation of what the anesthetist aims to accomplish by hand, or respirator, assistance or control of the patient's breathing might provide better continuity than waiting for a clue eleven chapters later in a discussion of "Ventilation," and another hundred pages for a consideration of "Emphysema." Many experienced anesthetists will regret that the advantage of slow flow rates for inflating the lungs with anesthetic atmospheres is not included in the advice regarding inflating pressures in "Practical Anesthesiology."

Complete bronchospasm developing during anesthesia requires early recognition and prompt treatment if a fatal outcome is to be avoided. Admittedly rare, it probably carries a higher priority of practicality than the danger of skin necrosis from the weight of the breathing tubes.

Many clinical anesthetists will take exception to the sole reference to ethyl chloride i.e. "explosive, may produce cardiac arrest during induction, it is not recommended." A similar disastrous result from ethyl ether vaporized in a copper kettle is entirely possible if improperly administered.

The list of "Suggested Readings" following each chapter reveals an excellent selection for which the authors are to be congratulated.

Practical Anesthesiology appears to be an extension of the lectures given by the authors to their students. In all likelihood it will be adopted as a text by other medical schools. Students and others using the book will be well advised to make constant reference to the "Suggested Readings."

The resident in anesthetics will do well to read the book and check his everyday performance against the Do's and Don'ts in Chapter 32.

All persons administering anesthetics will benefit from reading this book.

WILLIAM B. NEFF, M.D.

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MODERN MEDICAL TREATMENT—by various authors. Edited by Henry Miller, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician in Neurology, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne. Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Maryland, exclusive U. S. agents, 1962. 416 pages, \$7.00.

As the author indicates in the preface, the primary purpose of this book is to acquaint the busy physician with therapeutic procedures which are acceptable and practicable in the treatment of patients who are afflicted with any of the more common diseases. As an approach to therapy, there are given brief descriptions of the respective disease processes and helpful diagnostic information. In most instances, anticipated responses and results are described and evaluated. Contraindications for the use of medicaments and other therapeutic procedures are included. An appendix of diets is a practical addition.

Although the author states that "the book makes no claims to be comprehensive," and that "its scope is limited to diseases encountered in the United Kingdom," it is exceptionally well done and is readily applicable to conditions in the United States. Unquestionably this compact and informative book will receive practical daily use by any practicing physician who has one.

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PROPERTIES OF MEMBRANES AND DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—Based on the Symposium, June 1961, Sponsored Jointly by the American Neurological Association and the American Association of Neuropathologists, Inc.; Donald B. Tower, Sarah A. Luse, Harry Grundfest. With discussions by Abel Lajtha, Murray B. Bornstein, and Ichyl Tasaki. Foreword by Melvin D. Yahr. Springer Publishing Company, Inc., 44 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y., 1962. 102 pages, \$4.50.

This monograph brings together current thinking of the neurochemists, electron microscopists, and neurophysiologists, demonstrating how potentialities of the intra and surface cellular membranes of neurons may act as selective barriers producing separate functional units which are vital mechanisms of conduction, transmission, and reception of nerve impulses.

The publication advances our clarification of the exchange of ions, not only between membranes but within the membrane itself. There are not only compartmented metabolic functions separated by the membranes of opposing neurons but also compartmented metabolic functions within the